

Iowa Chess News

En Passant

Volume 64, Issue 3

Iowa State Chess Association

July 2024

PATRON MEMBERS

Note: If your name is not present, please let Ben Darr know and he will help renew your membership.

Zachary Daly, Benjamin Darr, Thomas Daufeldt, George Eichhorn, Michael Ervin, Thomas Gaul, Anthony Gericke, Martin Grund, Aleksey Gurtovoy, Thomas Hesse, Weston Kinghorn, Matthew Kriegel, Samuel Naylor, VI, Cassidy Noble, Richard Rector, Robert Reynolds, Jacob Smith, Robert Vance, Cole Veeder, Eric Vigil, Michael Volz, Mitch Weiss, Jasmin Zulic

The names of Patron members will be listed in every issue of *En Passant*. The extra money will be added to the IASCA budget and spent as the membership directs.



This issue is dedicated to **Mitch Weiss** (1956-2023).
Six Time State Champion (1981, 1983-84, 1986-88)

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Join the Iowa State Chess Association!

The Iowa State Chess Association is a non-profit organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Iowa.

Join or renew by sending dues to the IASCA Secretary:

Benjamin Darr
419 Winona St.
Dubuque, IA 52001

Or Join on our website via Iowa-Chess.org

Membership Dues:

Regular	\$10 for 1 year
	\$20 for 2 years
Patron:	\$25 per year
Affiliates:	\$15 per year
Family:	\$20 per year
Family Patron:	\$50 per year
Library:	\$25 per year



Chess.com 2 weeks ago

you miss 100% of the queen sacs you don't play
(please blunder your queen against me)

Hello From the Editor

Hello, I am Cassidy Noble.

I am a Class A player and have been playing competitive chess for about a decade.

Inside, you will see contributions from Tim McEntee, Jim Hodina, Ray Kappel, Marty Grund, Rick Rector, Mathew Jacob, Eric Vigil, George Eichhorn, and Joseph Pregon. Thank you for your contributions!



Thanks everyone!

En Passant Advertising Rates:

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Deadline for Contributions to the next issue of the Iowa Chess News En Passant are 15 days before the next issue (issues are delivered the first day of the new quarter). The Iowa Chess News En Passant is published quarterly by the Iowa State Chess Association. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the IASCA. None of the contents of the Iowa Chess News En Passant may be republished in any manner without the written consent of the Editor.

Upcoming Tournaments

2024 Midsummer Swiss. IASCA Mini-Qualifier. IASCA membership required for Open players. Other states accepted.

When: 7/6/2024. **Where:** Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn- 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA, 50321. **Hotel**

rooms: Discounted Chess rate of \$105 available. **Two sections:** Open and Reserve. Reserve open to players rated U1401. **Registration:** Online at kingregistration.com before 7/6/2024, 8:00 AM - 9:25 AM onsite. **Open:** Time Control: G/75;+5(Game in 75 minutes with a 5 second increment after each move). **Rounds:** 9:30 AM, 1:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM. **Entry Fee:** \$30 before 6/29/2024, \$40 after, \$50 onsite. Onsite payments with card subject to a \$5 processing fee. Players rated under 1400 but at/above 1200 may play up to the open for an additional \$10. **Prizes:** \$350 b/25. \$175 1st, \$100 2nd, \$75 3rd. **All prizes will be paid electronically!** **Reserve:** Time Control: G/75;+5(Game in 75 minutes with a 5 second increment after each move). **Rounds:** 9:30 AM, 1:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM. **Entry Fee:** \$20 before 6/29/2024, \$30 after, \$40 onsite. Onsite payments with card subject to a \$3 processing fee. **Prizes:** \$150

b/10. \$75 1st, \$50 2nd, \$25 3rd.

<https://www.kingregistration.com/event/MSS24>

Let There be Light II and Evening Quads. Date: July 13th, 2024. **Director:** Eric Vigil. **Time Control:** Swiss G/15;d2, Quads G/30; d5. **Rounds:** Swiss 1pm then ASAP, Quads 5pm then ASAP. **Additional Info:** Boards and clocks will be provided. Bring your own clock if possible. Free scholastic membership (if expired or within a month of expiring) with entry fee. Quads May be altered to a Swiss depending on number of players. **Registration:** Pay Onsite or online at Kingregistration.com under Hawkeye Chess Club. **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** No. **Memberships Available Onsite:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** Swiss \$25, Quads \$15. **Send Entry Fee:** Online or Onsite. **Prizes:** Swiss Trophy's for 1st thru 5th place, best U1000, U800, U600, U400 and best Unrated. Quads \$40. **Contact:** Eric Vigil evigil@gmail.com 319-621-3116.

Tournaments Cont.

Location: Christ the King Church - 325 Mormon Trek Blvd, Iowa City, IA 52246, USA.

<https://www.kingregistration.com/event/LIGHT2>

1000 GM Iowa Monthly Challenge.

Date: July 14th, 2024. **Director:** Ben Bratz. Two sections: Adult and Scholastic Tournament **Time Control:** G/25; d5.

Rounds: Four Rounds: Round 1: 1:00 pm, Rounds 2 through 4: ASAP. **Additional**

Info: Boards and pieces are provided, but players should bring clocks. \$10 processing fee for any refund. All rated section players must have a valid, active USCF membership to play. Can obtain or renew USCF membership at the door. Current Months Rating Supplement will be used. Byes, one ½ point bye allowed must be requested prior to start of round 2 and cannot be changed. **Registration:** Free for all current 1000 GM Chess Academy Students, \$25.00 before July 13, 11:00 am, \$35.00 thereafter. Adult Section: \$35 before July 13, 11:00 am, \$45.00 thereafter. **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** No. **Memberships Available Onsite:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** Free for all current 1000 GM Chess Academy Students, \$25.00 before July 13, 11:00 am, \$35.00 thereafter. Adult Section: \$35 before July 13, 11:00 am, \$45.00 thereafter. **Send Entry Fee:** Organizer Bill Broich: broich01@yahoo.com or Ben Bratz 515-805-1147 or email: ben.w.bratz@gamil.com. **Prizes:** Scholastic: An awards ceremony will take place ASAP after the completion of the final round. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd overall and 1st U1000, U800, U600, U400, U200, And Unrated. Tie Breaks: 1.Modified Median, 2. Solkoff, 3.Cumulative, 4.Opponent Cumulative, 5.Median, 6.Kashdan 7.Coin Flip. Adult:

\$300 total prize fund based on 16 paid adult entries. 1st \$75, 2nd \$45; U1600, \$60 U1400, \$60; Unrated not eligible for Under prizes. **Contact:** Call TD/Organizer Bill Broich at 515-205-8062 or email broich01@yahoo.com or Ben Bratz 515-805-1147 or email: ben.w.bratz@gamil.com. **Location:** The MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex. 6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266.

Location: The MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex. 6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266.

Join 1000 GM Chess Academy: https://academy.1000gm.net/enroll/?referral_code=Bill%20Broich

https://www.kingregistration.com/event/Iowa_Challenge

Quad-City Summer Open -- An Iowa Mini-Qualifier.

Date: Saturday, August 3, 2024. **Director:** Ben Bratz. Three sections. USCF-rated Open Section (Iowa Mini-Qualifier), USCF rated Reserve (Under 1400 section}, Unrated Beginner Kids Section: For newbies who do not have a USCF rating. **Time Control:** G/65, d5. **Rounds** Rds 10 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Registration:** Register online or Cash only on-site registration from 8:30 -9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 3. **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** Yes. **Memberships Available Onsite:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** \$30 online before 7/29. Between 7/29-8/2, \$40. At door: \$50. **Send Entry Fee:** Rick Rector, 3614 N.Thornwood Ave., Davenport, Iowa 52806. **Prizes:** Open: 1st: \$125, 2nd: \$100, 3rd: \$75, 4th: \$50. **Contact:** Rick Rector at rrector1217@gmail.com. **Location:** Western Illinois University Quad City Campus. 3300 River Drive – Moline, Ill., Riverfront Hall/Rooms 104-105.

Prizes: Open: 1st: \$125, 2nd: \$100, 3rd: \$75, 4th: \$50. **Contact:** Rick Rector at rrector1217@gmail.com. **Location:** Western Illinois University Quad City Campus. 3300 River Drive – Moline, Ill., Riverfront Hall/Rooms 104-105.

<https://www.kingregistration.com/event/quadcitiesummeropen2024>

President's Report

By: Tim McEntee

At the annual meeting in April, I was elected President. The following presents some of the things happening in the state. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved. If any of the following interests you, let me know.

Web Site

Jasmin Zulic has volunteered to update Iowa-chess.org web site. The new web site will be modular based. The same person could maintain multiple areas or multiple people can maintain a separate area. Jasmin will give an hour-long presentation at the Iowa Open. Plan on attending to learn more about all the changes. The goal is to go live with the new web site January 1, 2025.

Scholastic Report

We are in the process of scheduling the 2024-2025 scholastic state events. If you know of a school and/or have a son/daughter that attends a school that would be interested in hosting an event, please contact me at: timmcentee@msn.com

History of Chess – Iowa, a Library Exhibition

Mitch Weiss passed away in December. His widow donated his books and score sheets to IASCA. Some of the books he owned include 6th Edition Modern Chess Openings 1938, The Nottingham Congress 1946, The Complete Chess Guide 1910, My Best Games of Chess 1908-1923 by Alekhine, The Immortal Games of Capablanca 1942 and The Hastings Chess Tournament 1895.

Around this time, I was contacted by the Granger Public Library about setting up a chess club there. Over the years, I have

been in contact with David Hargrove, the Winterset Public Library Director. I decided to meet with him to discuss what options might exist with Mitch's books. While I present the following as a set idea, keep in mind that this is a work in progress and will probably end up with several changes.

One way to honor Mitch and Iowa's history of chess is with a traveling library exhibit. The exhibit would be on display at a library for 3 weeks. Some time during those 3 weeks, someone or a group would give an oral presentation answering people's questions and providing more details which could include a chess tournament, maybe even a simul. The library could use the exhibit to promote chess in their area and/or establish a chess club.

IASCA could raise money by either charging the library to host the exhibit or receive free will donations from people stopping by. We could seek co-sponsors who would have an interest in this display. It is possible to seek grants to fund the exhibit as well.

For the exhibit itself, David suggested that we put together a bullet point timeline showing key points in Iowa history. He suggested that we tie it in with our web site, but with the major overhaul that is being planned, it may get confusing doing that at this time.

I think having personal stories from players sharing their experiences would be useful as well.

Let me know if interested in helping with this project by sending me an email to timmcentee@msn.com

Remembering Mitch Weiss

In December of 2023, we lost a chess legend of Iowa—Mitch Weiss. We are dedicating this edition of the En Passant to him and his memory.

Inducted into the Iowa Chess Hall of Fame in 2021, Mitch made a major impact to the game and in the state.

“

Mitch is a six-time Iowa State Champion between the years of 1981 to 1988. During this period, Mitch was also the editor of the IASCA En Passant. He continued playing throughout the country with a peak rating of 2360 in 1995. Mitch continues to play chess, although at a less frequent pace.

He was active enough to qualify for the Iowa Closed Championship in 2002, finishing with 4.0 pts - a half point behind first place.

Playing a few tournaments through 2010, Mitch came out to play and win the first Iowa Senior Championship in 2017.

Mitch is an Original Life Master, which requires 300 games above a rating of 2200. Mitch's top FIDE rating was 2250 (currently 2240). Mitch was also a prolific correspondence player with a current rating of 2357

Iowa Closed Champion:

1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, and 1988

Iowa Open winner:

1998

We've compiled a couple of games of his as well as reached out and collected a couple of comments of Iowa members he touched through the years.

Weiss, Mitch (2345) - Paulson (2211)
1988 Twin Cities Open. 1988. 11.19. Round 3.

1. e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Qf3 d4 4. Bc4 dxc3 5. Bxf7+ Kd7 6. dxc3 e5 7. Bxg8 Rxc8 8. Qf7+ Be7 9. Bg5 Rf8 10. Rd1+ Kc7 11. Qxg7 Qe8 12. Qxe5+ Kb6 13. Bxe7 Nd7 14. Qd4+ 1-0

Note from Nebraska player. Your 64 second moment of silence for Mitch Weiss was truly commendable. I shared with a Kansas player and he agreed it was wonderful. I used to live in Burlington but never got to play Mitch but I loved going over his games.

—Ray Kappel

Burnett, Ronald Wayne (2463) - Weiss, Mitch (2344). US Masters Open. 1990. 03.18. Round 6.

1. Nf3 f5 2. e4 fxe4 3. Ng5 Nf6 4. d3 e5 5. dxe4 h6 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. Bc4 Bc5 8. Nbd2 d6 9. c3 Na5 10. Bd3 Bb6 11. a4 a6 12. b4 Nc6 13. a5 Ba7 14. Qb3 Bg4 15. Bc4 Qd7 16. h3 Bh5 17. b5 axb5 18. Bxb5 Bf7 19. Qa4 O-O 20. a6 Rfb8 21. O-O Be8 22. Kh2 Bb6 23. Nc4 bxa6 24. Bxa6 Kh8 25. Qc2 Bg6 26. Ncd2 d5 27. Nh4 Bxe4 28. Nxe4 Nxe4 29. f3 Nc5 30. Bb5 Rxa1 31. Ng6+ Kg8 32. Bxc6 Qd6 33. Bxd5+ Ne6 34. Qf5 Re8 35. Rd1 Rxc1 0-1

”

Weiss, Mitch (2347) - Innumerable
Jr., Florentino (2240). Mid-America
Class Championship. 1992. 03.14.
Round 3.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4.
Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7.
Bg5 a6 8. Na3 Be6 9. Nc4 Be7 10.
Bxf6 gxf6 11. Ne3 Rc8 12. Bd3 Rg8
13. O-O Nb4 14. a3 d5 15. exd5
Nxd5 16. Ncxd5 Bxd5 17. Bxh7 Rg7
18. Bf5 Be6 19. Bxe6 fxe6 20. Qxd8+
Bxd8 21. Rad1 Bb6 22. c3 Ke7 23.
Rd2 f5 24. Rfd1 Rc7 25. h3 e4 26.
Kf1 Bc5 27. Rc2 b5 28. Rcd2 Kf6
29. Rd8 Ke5 30. Rh8 Rcd7 31. Rxd7
Rxd7 32. Ke2 Rg7 33. g3 Bb6 34. h4
Kf6 35. Rf8+ Kg6 36. Ra8 Ba7 37.
Rc8 Kf6 38. Rc6 a5 39. Nd5+ Ke5
40. Nf4 Kf6 41. Nh5+ 1-0

Mitch played over 1/4 million games
on ICC over 27 years. Impressive
numbers!

His memory will forever be a blessing.
—Marty Grund

Here are his stats:

Burnett, Kevin (2400) - Weiss,
Mitch (2350). Iowa Championship.
1992. 04. 26. Round 4.

1. d4 g6 2. c4 Bg7 3. Nc3 d6 4. e4 e5
5. dxe5 dxe5 6. Qxd8+ Kxd8 7. f4
Be6 8. Nf3 Nd7 9. Be2 Ne7 10. Ng5
exf4 11. Nxe6+ fxe6 12. Bxf4 Nc6 13.
O-O Bd4+ 14. Kh1 Bxc3 15. bxc3
Nce5 16. Rab1 b6 17. Rb5 c5 18.
Rb2 Rf8 19. Rd2 Ke8 20. g3 Rc8 21.
Rfd1 Rc6 22. Kg2 Rg8 23. h4 Rg7
24. Kf2 Re7 25. Bg5 Rf7+ 26. Ke3
h5 27. Rd6 Rf3+ 28. Bxf3 Nxc4+ 29.
Ke2 Rxd6 30. Rxd6 Nxd6 31. g4
hxg4 32. Bxg4 Nxe4 33. Bxe6 Nf8
34. Bc4 Nxc5 35. hxg5 Nh7 36. Ke3
Nxc5 37. Kf4 Nf7 38. Bd3 g5+ 39.
Kf5 Ke7 40. Be2 Nd6+ 41. Ke5 Kd7
42. a4 Kc6 43. Bf3+ Kc7 44. Kd5
Ne8 45. Ke6 Nd6 46. Kd5 Nf5 47.
Ke4 Ne7 48. Ke5 Nc6+ 49. Kd5 Na5
50. Bd1 Kd7 51. Bg4+ Ke7 52. Bc8
Kf6 53. Bh3 Nb3 54. Bg4 Ke7 55.
Bd1 Na5 56. Bg4 Kd8 57. Bd1 Kc7
58. Bg4 Nb3 59. Bd1 Nd2 60. Be2
Nb1 61. Kc4 Kd6 62. Bh5 Ke5 63.
a5 Kf4 64. axb6 axb6 65. Kb5
Nxc3+ 66. Kxb6 Ne4 67. Be2 Ke3
68. Bf1 Nd2 69. Bh3 c4 70. Kc5 c3
0-1

iowa6 (Last disconnected Sun Sep 17 2023 10:30):

	rating	win	loss	draw	total	peak
Wild	1240	-	4	-	4	
Bughouse	2023	-	1	-	1	
Crazyhouse	1571	1	5	-	6	
Bullet	1729	125,869	117,055	10,460	253,384	2203 (1/1/2005)
Blitz	2402	2,419	2,358	464	5,241	2444 (4/24/2002)
Standard	2138	5	8	1	14	
5-minute	946	-	2	-	2	
1-minute	1661	1	1	-	2	

Cinco de Mayo Tournament

By: Rick Rector

Here's a brief about our Cinco de Mayo tournament that might be of interest.

McEntee wins Roger Kromphardt/Tony Britton Memorial Cinco de Mayo tournament

Illowa and Western Illinois University chess clubs marked Cinco de Mayo with a chess tournament on May 4 that not only celebrated the Mexican holiday, but also honored two longtime Illowa Chess Club members who recently passed.

Roger Kromphardt was a past Illowa president who was active for years teaching chess to youngsters at the Bettendorf Library and Children's Museum.

Tony Brittan was the club's official tournament director, directing almost 100 different events including most of the weekend events at Western Illinois.

This year's Mini-Qualifier event drew 48 players ranging from raw beginners to master.

Tim McEntee won the open section with a 3.5 out of 4 score. Sharing 2nd through 4th places with 3 points were Joe Pregon, Robert Reynolds and Andrew Larick.

Josh Lemon and Kevin Wright shared top honors in the under 1400 section with 3.5 points. Tying for 3rd and 4th with 3 points were Kartik Chugh and Owen Pillars.

Luffy Nguyen won the beginner section with a perfect 4-0 score. Tied for 2nd through 4th with 3 points were Gloria Peralta, Zawadi Kalapwe and Ryan Fei Jiao.

Here's a link to the wall chart.

<https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202405042892.0-16745417>

Also don't forget two more events coming with at Western Illinois University Quad-City Campus in Moline, Ill.



Left: Rick Rector posing with winner of the Cinco de Mayo tournament, Tim McEntee.

Right: Luffy Nguyen triumphantly holding their trophy after going undefeated in the beginner section.

Photos courtesy of Rick Rector.



Education

By: Mathew Jacob

Intro paragraph by **George Eichhorn**:

“Mathew Jacob is a long-time tournament chess player and has directed several chess tournaments. He is also deaf. When I’ve communicated with him at tournaments, I’ve exchanged written notes. Recently he wrote an article about some of the things people should know about communicating with deaf chess players and things the hearing community shouldn’t do. Here is his article.”

It is better if you ask Deaf people directly about Deaf Culture and American Sign Language (ASL) because it’s their language and culture. It is not appropriate to ask a Hearing people about Deaf Culture and ASL because they may give you wrong information.

A common question that many Hearing people ask:
Do you lipreading?

Mathew’s answer:
Do you sign?

I prefer not to answer your question relating to lipreading because it is a rude question.
Your question is stupid.

Lipreading does not help Deaf because it does not fit Deaf. Why can’t you learn American Sign Language (ASL) or/and write down on note?

When you use the interpreter, please look at Deaf directly. Why?

The interpreter’s job is to interpret everything, not participating in conversation. If you look at interpreter, it means you are not respecting Deaf. It is not hard to look at Deaf.
Simple.

Please make eye contact with Deaf because eye contact is very important in Deaf Culture. It is rude not to make eye contact with Deaf. It is not hard to do.
Simple.

You need to tap a Deaf person’s shoulder to get their attention. It is not hard to do. Tapping a shoulder is acceptable in Deaf Culture.

Do not use hearing impaired because it is offensive to Deaf. We prefer a simple term, Deaf.
Simple.

2024 Iowa City Downtown Block Party Blitz

By: Eric Vigil

Anish Lodh reclaims his title as Block Party Blitz Champion.

In 2021 the spring following Covid (or what we hoped was the end of Covid) Ming Lodh and I decided to have a chess tournament outside on the pedestrian Mall in Downtown Iowa City.

Ming said she got the space for free with the Chinese-American association she is also treasurer for. The space is directly in front of the Graduate Hotel (also this years site for the Iowa Open) We hauled tables and Chairs from Christ the King Church and tables from the Iowa City Public Library and had to limit the number of players to 64 as that is how many chairs we had. And we had 64 players

show up!!! It was a great success. With that success we were noticed by Christopher Hunter of the Iowa City Downtown Association who called me a week later and asked if the Iowa State Chess Association would like to hold a similar event as part of the Iowa City Downtown block party. I said OK? What is the catch, what do I have to do? Ming Christopher and I met at the Dandy Lion on the Pedestrian Mall in downtown Iowa City and discussed details. I was shocked! The biggest problem we had was in transporting the tables and chairs and carrying them two blocks to the Pedestrian Mall.



A couple of the over 200 players creating the magical block party energy.
Photos by Eric Vigil

The downtown association said they would set up tables and chairs for 200 people! And Tents to cover 100 of them in case of weather, and give us \$100 in the form of 10 \$10 gift cards to hand out as prizes and to purchase a trophy. It was a deal and a half. The thought of 200 people playing chess in the middle of the street on the City's dime was just too good to be true.

The Day of the Event came. Throngs of people came to play. I was required to run the tournament for free. I had a rated and an unrated section. The rated section was much easier to manage as the chess players knew what to expect and didn't leave after losing. It's hot and it's chaotic players in the unrated section as people leave without telling the tournament director.



After the tournament we allowed free play on the sets and there are 200 people playing chess.

We have to kick them off the boards in order to get home. It is a wonderful care free setting where people play chess on the street and have a beer. It's magical, it seems people when given a chess set will hang out and play.

Congratulations again to Anish Lodh reclaiming his title from Gokul Thangavel.



Just a couple of the boards used in the tournament laying out to dry on the chess clothesline.

Photo by Eric Vigil

Anish accepting the winner's trophy from TD Eric Vigil.

Photo by: Gokul Thangavel

Puzzles

“Chess is 99% Tactics”

Below are 10 problems. How you should approach these problems are similar to games. Evaluate the position, then make your candidates moves. When you are satisfied with your answer, write down your answers.

When you are done, compare it to the solutions at the back of this issue.

Problems 1-3 are “Easy”.
Problems 4-6 are “Medium”.
Problems 7-9 are Hard”.
Problem 10 is “Very Hard”.



1. White to Move



2. White to Move



3. White to Move



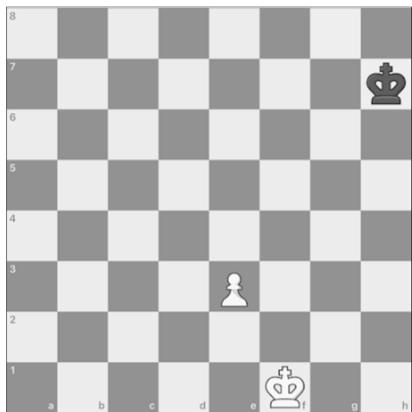
4. White to Move



5. Black to Move



8. White to Move



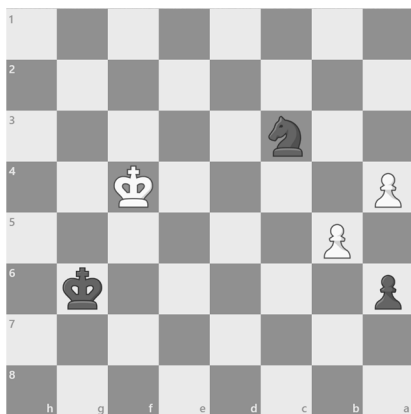
6. White to Move



9. Black to Move



7. White to Move



10. White to Move

2023-2024 Iowa Closed Tournament

This year, we saw the 139 players participate in in the quest for qualifying points to play in the Closed Championship. Of those 139, 39 managed to earn points at some level.

The top 6 players, Alec Aimdilokwong, Tim McEntee, Jasmin Zulic, Valeriy Kosokin, Joseph Pregon, and Volodymyr Baranovsky punched their way to the Closed tournament on April 13th and 14th.

In a tight battle, we saw a 3-way tie with 3.5 points for the 3rd straight year of having joint players taking home the title.

Below are a handful of games from the participants including some annotated games of theirs.

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5		
<u>1</u> IA	<u>VALERIY KOSOKIN</u> 15212732 / R: 2211 ->2210	3.5 N:C	D B	4 B	D W	6 W	2 W	3 B	5 W
<u>2</u> IA	<u>TIM R MCENTEE</u> 12298150 / R: 2200 ->2200	3.5 N:C	D W	3 B	W B	4 B	L W	1 B	5 W
<u>3</u> IA	<u>ALEC DANIEL AIMDILOKWONG</u> 17127332 / R: 2111 ->2125	3.5 N:C	D B	2 W	W W	5 W	6 B	D B	1 B
<u>4</u> IA	<u>JOSEPH JEFFERY PREGON</u> 15834640 / R: 1974 ->1992	2.5 N:1	D W	1 W	L W	2 B	W B	5 B	6 W
<u>5</u> IA	<u>JASMIN ZULIC</u> 12626843 / R: 1970 ->1953	1.0 W	W W	6 B	L W	3 W	L B	4 B	2 W
<u>6</u> IA	<u>VOLODYMYR BARANOVSKYI</u> 30450378 / R: 1955 ->1940	1.0 W	L B	5 W	D W	1 B	L W	3 B	4 W

Baranovskyi, Volodymyr (1955) 1. e4 c5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Ne2 e5 4. Nbc3 d6 5. h3 f5 6. exf5 Bxf5 7. a3 Nf6 8. d3 Be7 9. g4 Bg6 10. Bg2 O-O 11. O-O
-McEntee, Tim (2200). 2024 Closed. 2024.04.14. Round 5.

(Annotations by Tim McEntee) [see image atop next page]
Qd7 12. f4 Nd4 13. f5 Bf7



Qd7 12. f4 Nd4? 13. f5 Bf7 14. Ng3?! h6 15. Nge4 Rab8 16. Be3 b5 17. cxb5?! Nxb5?! 18. Nxf6+ Bxf6 19. Ne4 Qd8?! 20. h4? Bxh4 {black takes the pawn allowing the ensuing complications}



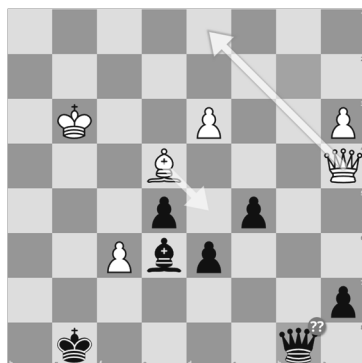
21. f6 Bxf6 22. Nxf6+ gxf6 23. Bxh6 Nd4 {wisely sacking the exchange. with the knight on d4, black has enough compensation for the exchange}

24. Bxf8?! Qxf8 25. Rxf6 Rxb2 {my guess is that white was counting on Bd5 here but black just takes it and has a

rook, knight and bishop staring at a naked white king }



26. g5 Ne2+ 27. Kf1 Nf4 28. Be4 Qc8 29. Bf5 Qb7 30. Be4 Bd5 31. Qa4 Rb1+ 32. Rxb1 Qxb1+ 33. Kf2 Qb2+ 34. Kg3 Nh5+ 35. Kh3 Nxf6 36. gxf6 Be6+ 37. Kg3 Qb8?? { an amazing blunder and one difficult to see in time pressure. white has the amazing Bd5 where black can't take due to Qd7 leading to mate and Kf7 is also met by Qd7 winning everything }



38. Qd1 Qf8 39. Qf3?? Qh6 0-1 {black has regained the upper hand and white lost on time.}

(The following games are annotated by
Joseph Pregon)

Pregon, Joseph (1974) - Kosokin, Valeriy (2212) 2024 Closed.
2024.04.13. Round 1.

Alright, so this is the long awaited 2024 Iowa Closed for which we will see if my preparation with Joseph Wan will amount to anything special, maybe even a championship. First round, I get the most difficult pairing out of the way by playing the famous Iowa master NM Valeriy Kosokin who surprisingly only had 1 state title throughout his Iowa career (2023). Let's see how I rise to the challenge since I have never beaten or even drawn this incredible player before in my career. By the way, Kosokin showed up almost a half hour late, so that sets the time situation.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 {Of course I am opting for my London KID systems that Joseph and I prepared extensively for this matchup }

2...e63.e3 b6 {Here, he throws me for a bit of a loop in that I was not anticipating a QID setup from him. Fortunately, I did study a game from Tim from several years ago that did have a similar style of play so I wasn't totally unfamiliar or unprepared for this. }

4.Nf3 Bb7 5.c4 {Not the typical London plan, but very good in my opinion because it fights for the center with pawns unlike the alternative c3 standard setups }

5...Be7 6.h3 c5 7. Nc3 { I am playing this setup intentionally overly ambitious because I will not sit back against a master and play passive ideas like Nbd2 }

7...cxd4 8.Qxd4 d6 { I don't mind taking with the queen since I am developing it and I keep my structure in tact8.exd4d5this would totally nullify any spatial advantage that white could have even tried to claim, and black might even emerge as better with

excellent control over the d5 square}

9. Bh2 a610.Be2 Qc7 11.O-O Nc6 12.Qd2 Rd8 13.Rac1 {lining the rook with the black queen, which will prove to be very important as you'll see in the next few moves}

13...Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 {I don't mind trading his good central knight for my less good f3 knight }

15.Qc2 O-O 16.Rfd1 16. Bc6 17.Bf1 {this is just as a safety first defending g2 and getting my bishop out of the way so my other pieces can communicate with each other more effectively without tripping over my bishop.}

17...Rd7 18.Rxd7 Nxd719.Nd5! { This was the whole point of the trade, because now I can get the bishop pair won, and can actually be on the better side of a draw or even pressing for advantage. Kosokin definitely doesn't have the better hand here, and this was a concept I found in the game that I was quite proud of.}

19...Qd8 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 {white has won the bishop pair and has absolutely no problems whatsoever here}

21.Rd1 Rc8 22.Qd2 {I notice the d6 square could be won by white so I aim to control that and the d file with my last remaining heavy pieces}

22...f6 23.f3 {he wants to shut my h2 bishop out with f6 so I will reroute it in via g3-f2 or e1 to get it in play}

23...e4 24.Bd6 Qe8 25.fxe4 {I felt was a very principled decision to try and open up the board for the bishop pair}

25...Bxe4 26.Qd4 {with tempo centralizing the queen}

26...Bc6 27.b3 {solidifying the structure before deciding on the next course of action}

27...Qh5 28.Rd2 {removing the e1 rook as a target}

28...Nc5 29.Bxc5 {he was going to e4, so the knight proved to be as strong as the bishop actually}

29...Qxc5 30.Be2 {I want to reactivate the bishop I still have now}

30...e5 {the situation on the clock was about even at 12 minutes, but he just took a long think and is under 5 minutes}

31.Qxc5 {he entices me to take, but I only do it when he makes me, so I had time before that to improve the position of my bishop first; a key little bit of precision}

31...bxc5 32.Bg4 {my goal here is to make an active bad bishop, meaning to get my bishop outside of my chain, and then although not good by definition since my pawns are on the same color squares as my bishop, can be a decent bishop}

32...Rc7 33.Be6+ {continuing the bishop plan}

33...Kf8 34.Bd5 Be8 35.Kf2 {now I will activate my king to somewhere more useful, like the queenside}

35...a5 36.Ke2 Ke7 37.Kd3 f5 38.a3 {it's very important to keep the queenside fluid and the possibility to create a queenside passed pawn to counter the 4 on 3 majority he has on the kingside}

38...Ra7 39.Kc3 {preparing to support the b3-b4 thrust if it ever becomes favorable to do so}

39...g5 40.Rf2 Bg6 41.g3 {I want to try and restrict his f4 break in the position}

41...Kf6 42.Be4 {this move is basically a direct refutation to his Kf6 move to make him retreat and have to find something else because the threat is to take on f5 and if Bxf5 then g4 wins a clean pawn}

42...Ke6 43.Bd5+ Ke7 44.Rf1 {all I have to do is wait right now to see what he wants to do because I think all my pieces are in their optimal position}

44...Ra6 45.Rf2 Rb6 46.Rf1 h6 47.Rf2 Kd6 48.Rd2 Ke7 49.Rf2 Bh7 50.Rf1 Rb8 51.Rf2 Rb6 52.Rf1 Ra6 53.Rf2 Ra7 54.Rf1 h5 55.g4!? {not the best move, but considering we were both in time pressure, I don't think it was a bad try because it forced Kosokin into uncomfortable decisions to have to make}

55...hgx4 56.hgx4 f4 57.Rh1 {this was my idea to just come in on the open file now and argue that I have the better rook and bishop than he does}

57...Kf6 58.Rh6+ Kg7 59.Re6 {now it is clearly only black who could possibly lose this game as one of his critical pawns will fall and he must play precisely to save the game for a draw}

59...e4 60.exf4 gxf4 61.Bxe4 Bxe4 62.Rxe4 Rf7 63.Kd2 {I have to go and stop the pawn, so the rest of the play is pretty self-explanatory}

63...f3 64.Ke1 f2+ 65.Kf1 Rf3 66.Re7+! {this was actually a very precise move by me because this move will enable me to defend the a pawn as I capture his, which is my best situation pretty much}

66...Kf6 67.Ra7 Rxb3 68.Rxa5 Kg5 69.Rxc5+ {taking a pawn with check I felt like probably can't be bad}

69...Kxg4 70.Kxf2 Kf4 71.a4 {his king activity is more than enough to compensate for my two unconnected pawns, but he has to only be careful about me cutting his king off}

71...Rb2+ 72.Ke1 Ke3 73.Kd1 Kd4 74.Rc7 Ra2 75.Kc1 Rxa4 {I offered a draw and he accepted, and I felt like this game was a very positive start to the tournament and would foreshadow a good performance}

Pregon, Joseph (1974) - McEntee, Tim (2200) 2024 Closed. 2024.04.13.Round 2.

This round I would play the next highest rated opponent, NM Tim McEntee who has won the Iowa Closed 5 times in his career. I came into this game confident that I could play a good game and maybe even win, and I was particularly inspired by a quote by Magnus Carlsen I had heard not too long ago. He said it is better to overestimate your chances than to underestimate them. In that spirit, I wanted to play overly ambitiously and gamble since a win in such a game as this one would be a big, big deal for the standings and my tournament chances. Let's see what happened.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 d5 3. e3 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Nbd2 Bf5!? { not the best try, and Joseph told me a way to handle this position that would give me a better game } **6. dxc5 e6 7. Nd4** { the point is I win the bishop pair in the time it takes him to recapture my pawn, a nice concept } **7... Bxc5 8. Nxf5 exf5 9. c3** { A very important move to keep the structural integrity of the center and to play against the isolani, and with a bishop pair, I feel that white has excellent chances here. Indeed, white in the master database here scores 56% overall including draws to black's 44% } **9... O-O 10. Be2** { Here I thought Be2 makes more sense than Bd3 because white wants to keep access to the isolani with the queen and also Bd3 doesn't really do anything since the doubled f pawn is easily defendable with g6 or Ne4 } **10... Qe7 11. O-O Rfd8 12. Nb3 Bb6 13. Nd4** { I thought this was very principled on my part just bringing the knight to blockade the isolani } **13... Nxd4 14. exd4 Bc7 15. Bxc7 Qxc7** { Tim has now transposed this to a position where only white is better since I have a bishop vs a knight and he has weak pawns on light squares and both sides of the board } **16. Bd3 Ng4?** { I want to play g3 anyway to reroute the bishop back to

g2 to target d5, so this seems like just a bad move and a waste of time } **17. g3 g6 18. Re1 Re8 19. Qb3** { everything is now out and developed with tempo } **19... Nf6 20. Bf1 Re6 21. Rxe6** { he offered to change the character of the position a little bit but his pawns are still on light squares so I accepted the transformation and took } **21... fxe6 22. Re1 Kf7 23. c4?!** { This move was criticized to me after the game as the incorrect approach and forcing the issue a bit too much. Much better was just milking the position a little more as only white can win this } **23... Qc6 24. cxd5** (24. c5 b6 25. Bb5 Qc7 26. Qe3 Qe7 27. b4 a5 28. cxb6) **24... Nxd5 25. Bg2 Rd8 26. h3** { I realized this wasn't that good for me so I just made room for the king } **26... Qb6 27. Rc1?** { I more or less blitzed this out during the game as if the move itself were a draw offer and an admission that I don't have the advantage I thought I had } (27. Bxd5 Rxd5 28. Qxb6 axb6 29. Rc1 \$10 Kc7 30. Rc7+ Rd7 31. Rc4) **27... Qxb3 28. axb3 Kf6 29. Kf1** { just bringing the king to the center of the board as it is now the endgame and queens have been traded so there is no danger to me doing so now } **29... Rd6 30. Ke2 Rb6** { I actually missed this move which I thought was pretty unfortunate because it basically takes all the life out of the position and forces the drawn rook and pawn endgame } **31. Bxd5 exd5 32. Rc3 g5 33. Kd2 h5 34. Kc2 Rb4 35. Rd3 h4 36. Kc3** { now with my king on c3 holding everything, my rook is free to move and do other things, but this is still a draw } (36. gxh4 gxh4 37. f4 Rb6 38. Re3 Re6 (38... Kf7 39. Re5) 39. Rxe6+) **36... Rb6 37. Re3 Rc6+ 38. Kd2 hxg3 39. fxg3 Rc7 40. g4** { nothing too special is going on here, just setting up the draw formation } **40... f4 41. Re5** { Here I believe I offered a draw to which Tim declined and I thought it was relatively straight forward but in time trouble I misunderstood an aspect of the position }

41... Rd7 42. Rf5+ Kg6 43. Re5 Rh7 44. Rxd5 Rxb3 45. Rd6+ Kf7 46. Rd7+?? { I blitzed this out thinking there was no difference to how I drew this, but to my horror I actually realized that although I was fighting to be up a pawn rather than down a pawn, the quality of the pawns was just better for him, and I don't actually have time to use them as decoys as I thought I did } (46. Rd5 Kg6 47. Rd6+ Kf7 48. Rd5 Kf6 49. Rd6+ Ke7 50. Rg6 Rxb3 51. Kc2 Rg3 52. Rxd5 f3 53. Rf5 Rxd4 54. Rxf3 Rxd4 { something like this is what I should have gone for, and although he has a majority on the queenside, it's meaningless and he can't win this }) 46... Ke6! { I didn't think this move was a problem, but actually there is a little poison to it in that this is his one way to keep fighting for the win } 47. Rxb7 { although I thought this was all drawing, it's actually not because the two pawns which I thought had to be escorted by his king and set up correctly, actually can be pushed without that, and all of a sudden I found myself down too many tempi and played it wrong under time pressure } (47. Rg7 Rxb3 (47... Kf6! \$19) (47... Kd5!) 48. Kc2 Rg3 49. Rxd5 f3 50. Rf5 Rxd4 51. Rxf3 Rxd4 { again, I should have gone for something like this, with an easily holdable game, but I thought for some reason I was hanging the b pawn too so this wouldn't be good, but I think it was just me hallucinating during the last couple minutes on my clock }) 47... Rg3 48. Rxa7 Rxd4 49. Ra5 { I thought the king needed to be cut off but this actually doesn't do anything helpful for my position because his king position doesn't matter } 49... Rg2+ 50. Kd3 f3 { at this point I realized to my horror I'm lost } 51. Ke3 g4 52. Rg5 f2 53. Ke2 g3 54. Rg6+ Kf7 55. Rg4 Rg1 56. Rf4+ Ke6 { well this was a very bad game on my part and showed poor endgame understanding, and one that shows that I should probably read an endgame book as one of the next things I try to do to improve my game } 0-1

Zulic, Jasmin (1970) - Pregon, Joseph (1974). 2024 Closed.2024.04.13.Round 3.

Well, after my disappointing gamble in round 2 didn't pay off, I still have not won a game in my Iowa closed history, and this was my 8th game without a win combining both years, so I really wanted to win this game. Here is how this game went.

1. d4 e6 { I prepared for either Veresov or Jobava, and he opts for the latter } 2. Bf4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. e3 a6! { Joseph's recommendation so I can play e5 and fight for the center without ever worrying about Nb5 troubles } 5. Bd3 c5 { the top move in the master's database, and for good reason as this seems that black is fighting back vs the Jobava which is supposed to be kind of aggressive for white } 6. dxc5 Bxc5 { I certainly don't mind the capture to develop my bishop for free } 7. Nf3 Nc6 { just bringing everything towards the center, and sometimes in these positions the light squared bishop doesn't come out to play until later when conditions are more favorable, as you will see } 8. h3 b5 { as he does not play to prevent b5 with a4, I execute the queenside expansion and was happy with what I had achieved out of the opening } 9. O-O Bb7 10. a3 O-O { black is castled and has a good position ready to play } 11. Ne5 Nxe5 { it is a very thematic idea to sometimes exchange knights here since my c6 knight is not really better than his e5 knight } 12. Bxe5 Rc8 13. Ne2 Nd7 14. Bd4 Bd6 { threatening e5 and so I want to not trade pieces and keep everything on the board as my argument is that I have a better claim to the center than him at the moment } 15. f4 Nc5 16. Bxc5 Bxc5 { so now his bishop pair has been won, so I am quite happy with my positional achievement here in having done that } 17. Nd4 Re8 18. Qf3 Rc7! { I knew he was going to attack me on the kingside since that's where all his attackers are pointing, so I

found this Rc7 move over the board as a dual purpose move to have the rook slide between the kingside and queenside, and Bc8 biting down on f4 is an idea too } 19. **Qg3 f5** { I decide to lock things down with f5 so my play can revolve around getting a timely break on the queenside with my minority attack } (19... g6 20. Rael f6) 20. **Rae1 Bc8** { now you will see some shuffling just to see what my opponent will do } 21. **c3 g6** { solidifying the structure a little bit } 22. **Nf3 Rg7** { now the rook slides over and realizes potentially a new purpose in life on the kingside } 23. **Kh1 h6** { maybe I am preparing g5, who knows } (23... g5 24. fxg5 e5 25. Bc2 Bxe3 26. Bxf5 Bf4 27. Qg4 h5 28. Qxh5 Bxf5 29. Nxe5 Be4) 24. **Qh2 Qb6** { bringing the queen to a more useful square perhaps and with tempo on e3, but it may become useful later on to execute a5 and b4 to break through } 25. **Nd4 Kh8** { making room for my e8 rook to slide to g8 perhaps, or at least to try and not trip over my own rooks } 26. **g4 Bd6** { just shuffling for a bit } 27. **Nf3 Reg8** 28. **g5** { I was very surprised to see a player as strong as Jasmin make such a poor strategic decision of offering to close up the kingside which is the whole point of his setup is to attack me over there. Now the position after h5 and closing it up will become one way traffic on the queenside for an easily winning game } 28... **h5** 29. **h4 Bd7** { this is the start of getting everything where it needs to be to be able to execute a successful b4 break } 30. **Qd2 Rc8** 31. **Bb1 Qc7** { just a minor detail that I wasn't a fan of Qd4 by him hitting my queen so I stepped out of his way } 32. **Kg2 Be8** { my bishop gets out of the way of my g7 rook to go to c7 and eyes both sides of the board } 33. **Qd4 Qe7** 34. **Ne5 Bc5** 35. **Qd2 Kh7** { now my king is out of any dangerous diagonals } 36. **Bd3 Qb7** 37. **Kg3 Rgc7** 38. **Be2 Bf8** { opening up the power of my doubled

rooks now unopposed } 39. **Bf3 a5** { now that all my pieces are ideally placed and aiming at the queenside, only now a5 can be executed with b4 next to follow } 40. **Qe2 Bd6** { just a quick little rerouting of the bishop attacking the knight before playing b4 } 41. **Nd3 b4!** { Now that black has executed the queenside breakthrough and white is totally unprepared for it, white is close to just being busted here and is almost lost from a human perspective in my opinion. Also notice how I did everything and he did absolutely nothing to prepare for any of this. } 42. **axb4 axb4** 43. **cxb4 Bb5!** { the only move to keep advantage while keeping the bishop pair } 44. **Qd1 Qa6** { the clock was ticking down quickly for the both of us so I just played fast moves that attacked something and tried to find the win thinking on his clock time and not mine } 45. **Be2 Qb6** 46. **Kf3 Qc6** 47. **Ne5??** { this offers to open up lines around his king and will cost him the game } 47... **Bxe5** 48. **fxe5 d4+** 49. **Kg3 dxe3** 50. **Bxb5 Qxb5** 51. **Rxe3 Rd7!** { now his bad king positioning and the open files for the rooks and my queen really are starting to come to light, and this is impossible for him to figure out how to defend even with adequate time on his clock, let alone with only about 1 minute left } 52. **Qb3?? Qxf1** { this marks the nail in the coffin } 53. **Qxe6** { grabbing an irrelevant pawn while ignoring the fact that he is getting mated by force } 53... **f4+** 54. **Kh2 Rd2+** 55. **Re2 Rxe2#** { After 8 games, I finally won my first one ever in the Iowa Closed to make an impression, and I do believe that I did. This was a statement game for me that I could not only compete with these guys in the closed state championship, but that I could win a game, so this was quite nice. } 0-1

Baranovskyi, Volodymyr (1955) - Pregon, Joseph (1974). 2024 Closed. 2024.04.14. Round 4.

1. **e4** { Well after over pressing vs Tim on Day 1, my path to a state title as a lower rated wildcard in the field was a bit of a stretch but still could have been done, all if I managed to win this round 4 game to keep my chances alive and play for a win against Alec with the white pieces. Well, let's just see what happened. } 1... **c6** { So I had actually seen some of Volodymyr's games and knew enough to know that he played the Panov, so instead of the French I opt for that variation because I have something prepared } 2. **d4 d5** 3. **exd5 cxd5** 4. **c4 Nf6** 5. **Nc3 Nc6** 6. **Nf3 Be6!** { this is a lesser played move in the masters database, but still quite good and is strategically sound, so I unveil it here } 7. **c5 g6** { the correct approach against c5 is to just fianchetto immediately and start playing the position } 8. **Bb5 Bg7** 9. **Ne5 Qc8** 10. **Qa4 Bd7** 11. **Nxd7 Qxd7** { black gets rid of their bad bishop here for white's great knight, a thematic idea } 12. **O-O O-O** 13. **Re1** { my preparation basically ended right about here and I had to start playing on my own } 13... **Rfe8** { I know that in such positions e5 is a break you want to strive to achieve, so what better way to do that than by backing it up with a rook } 14. **Bf4 a6** { forcing him to make a decision } 15. **Bf1 Nh5** { forcing his bishop to the e3 square and having to go back } 16. **Be3 Rad8** { everything is now developed and we have to start navigating the mid-

dlegame planning } 17. **Rad1 Qc7** 18. **g3** { It was actually suggested to me after the game that e5 immediately was better, but I was just afraid of liquidating too much and eliminating my winning chances } 18... **e6** (18... e5 19. dxe5 d4 20. Bxd4 Nxd4 21. Rxd4 Bxe5 22. Rxd8 Rxd8 23. Qc4 { I assessed this position as better for white and decided not to go for it because I thought black threw away anything he could have had since the d4 pawn is not there for me to target anymore and my center was gone }) 19. **a3 Nf6** { I'm gonna try and bring the knight back into the game into a more useful square } 20. **Bg2 Ng4** { my knight is bringing itself to the f5 square to have an extra attacker on d4, and it was up to my opponent to figure out how he was to stop this, like if he was gonna play Bh3-f5 and give up his bishop pair } 21. **Bf4 Qd7** 22. **h3 Nh6** 23. **g4** { that's one way to stop Nf5 for now } 23... **Kh8!** { making room for the knight to come back into the game via g8 } 24. **Be3 Ng8** 25. **b4 f5!** { threatening f5-f4 and after Bxf4 his critical d4 pawn would fall, so this is gonna force him to have to make a concession with f4 and allow my knight into e4 to transform the position in response to his queenside expansion } 26. **f4 Nf6** 27. **g5 Ne4** 28. **Nxe4 dxe4** { at this point, I was starting to feel confident I could win this game since the d4 pawn was so weak and the d5 square was totally mine } 29. **Rd2 Re7??** { At this point, I kind of got spooked because of his Bf1 move and he can push b5 and get some play, so I thought I might not have time for Ne7-d5 and a queen trade might actually lead to not as good of

an ending for me. However, that was actually probably the best idea for me and I didn't assess it correctly. Also, I played this move in less than 3 minutes with more than 20 minutes on my clock, so I rushed this decision too much. } **30. Red1** { I had a time advantage of more than 20 minutes to less than 2 minutes for him, but I had already gone for the wrong idea so nothing is as strong anymore, so I spent about 13 minutes looking for something good that just wasn't there anymore. I had lost my big chance. } **30... Qe8 31. d5** { I realized I had done it wrong and threw my advantage away, although I did still at least have a passed pawn on e4 if it would ever amount to anything } **31... exd5 32. Rxd5 Red7 33. Rxd7 Rxd7 34. Kf2 Qd8 35. Rxd7 Qxd7 36. Qc2** { at least I control the d file, but all of a sudden this is not so clear cut anymore } **36... h6** { not great by me and was kind of a waste of time but I was just ironically trying to gain time by doing it } **37. h4 hxc5 38. hxc5 Bd4 39. Qd2 Bxe3+ 40. Qxe3 Qd4?** { I thought his pawns where all weak on the dark squares but it turns out we both misunderstood our chances here and the bishop still should be better than the knight } **41. Bf1 Qb2+ 42. Kg3 Nd4** { this queen and knight combination I thought would have to be good } **43. Bc4 Nf3** { I repeat a little to gain a few seconds on the clock } **44. Be2 Nd4 45. Bc4 Kg7 46. c6!** { I missed how strong this move is by him, and now a draw is probably inevitable because he just gets to open the position up too much for his queen } **46... Nxc6 47. Bd5 Nd4 48. Bxb7 Nf3 49. Bxe4 fxe4 50. Qxe4 Nd2** { now it's just a draw, nothing I can do about it } **51. Qe7+**

Kh8?? 52. Qd8+ Kh7 53. Qd7+ Kg8 54. Qe8+ Kh7 55. Qd7+ Kg8 56. Qe8+ Kh7 57. Qd7+ Kg8 58. Qd8+ Kh7 59. Qd7+ Kg8 60. Qe8+ { It was just a perpetual check with nothing I could do. It's a shame that I misplayed it, but I'll be back in the closed sometime. I'll come back and play more events- it's not the end of my career or anything. } **1/2-1/2**

Pregon, Joseph (1974) - Aim-dilokwong, Alec (2111). 2024 Closed. 2024.04.14. Round 5.

Seeing as how I drew last round to pretty much totally eliminate my chances of winning this tournament, I decided to give Alec his draw and his title so I could go home a bit earlier

1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 Nf6 3. e3 c5 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. Nbd2 cxd4 6. exd4 Qb6 7. Nb3 Bf5 1/2-1/2 {We shook hands to an equal position, and that concludes my 2024 closed run. It was a good run and I'm happy with that considering that I was never a favorite, and as a wildcard lower rated opponent, one can argue I even got close to winning it if I hadn't overpressed a draw vs Tim and converted a -3 position vs Baranovsky the correct way. I would have been at 3.5 and a state champion, but alas it didn't happen this year. Maybe another time, but I did learn a lot from this event to come back better.}

All Closed Games can be found here:

<https://www.bit.ly/24IAclosed>

Puzzle Solutions

Puzzle 1

1. g6+ Ke8
2. Qxd8+ Kxd8
3. gxh7

Puzzle 2

1. Qxf5 Rxf5
2. Ra8+ Qd8
3. Rxd8+ Rf8
4. Rxf8#

Puzzle 3

1. Qxb8+ Rxb8
2. Rxa5+ Ba6
3. Raxa6#

Puzzle 4

1. Rg5+ Kxg5
2. Nf7+ Kh5
3. g4#

Puzzle 5

1. ... f3
2. a6 d2
3. Bxd2 f2

Puzzle 6

1. Ke2 Kg6
2. Kd3 Kf5
3. Kd4 Ke6

4. Ke4

Puzzle 7

1. Ne6+ Ke8
2. Nc5+ Kd8
3. Nxb3 Qb4
4. Nxa5

Puzzle 8

1. Nb5+ axb5
2. a4 Na5
3. axb5 b6
4. Rxa5+ bxa5
5. b6#

Puzzle 9

1. ... Qb1+
2. Qxb1 c2+
3. Qb2 axb2+
4. Bxb2 cxd1=Q#

Puzzle 10

1. ... a5
2. b6 Nd5+
3. Ke5 Nxb6
4. Kd6 Nxa4
5. Kc6 Nb6
6. Kb5 a4

Iowa Chess En Passant
c/o Tim McEntee
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The happy faces during the trophy celebration of the Roger Komphardt/Tony Britton Memorial on May 5th earlier this year.
Photo courtesy of Rick Rector.